IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A mobile phone set comprising:

a personal locator beacon transmitter circuit which transmits a beacon that includes an identification code selected from a serial number and a phone number of the set; and

a microprocessor coupled to the circuit and configured to activate the circuit only when there is no mobile phone service available and the mobile phone user requests emergency service.

Claim 2 (original): A phone set according to claim 1 further comprising a global positioning system receiver circuit coupled to the microprocessor, the microprocessor further configured to include location coordinates from the global positioning system receiver circuit with a beacon transmitted by the personal locator circuit.

Claim 3 (original): A phone set according to claim 1 wherein the personal locator beacon circuit transmits a beacon at a frequency of approximately 406 MHz.

Claim 4 (original): A phone set according to claim 3 wherein the personal locator beacon circuit also transmits a homing signal at a frequency selected from approximately 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz.

Claim 5 (original): A phone set according to claim 4 further comprising a microphone coupled to the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit such that the homing signal includes voice transmission.

Claims 6 – 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): A phone set according to claim 1 further comprising a short range transceiver coupled to the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit and the microprocessor such that the locator beacon circuit transmits a beacon that includes emergency information received from the short range transceiver.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A method of requesting emergency service on a mobile phone handset comprising the steps of:

determining if mobile service is available: and

activating a personal locator beacon transmitter circuit in the event that such service is unavailable which circuit transmits a beacon that includes an identification code selected from a serial number and phone number of the handset.

Claim 10(original): The method according to claim 9 wherein the transmitter circuit transmits a beacon that includes global positioning system location coordinates.

Claims 11 – 12 (canceled)

Claim 13(original): The method according to claim 9 wherein the transmitter circuit transmits a beacon at a frequency of approximately 406 MHz.

Claim 14(original): The method according to claim 9 wherein the transmitter circuit transmits a homing signal at a frequency selected from approximately 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz.

Claim 15(original): The method according to claim 14 wherein voice transmission is included with the homing signal.

Claim 16(original): The method according to claim 9 wherein the beacon signal includes emergency information received from a short range transceiver located in the handset.